

Hamilton Field, Bread Bakery

(Facility No. 413)

4th Street between Escolta and Hangar Avenues

Novato

Marin County

California

HABS No. CA-2398-R

HABS

CAL

21-NOVA,

1R-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
San Francisco, California

## HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

### HAMILTON FIELD Bread Bakery (Facility No. 413)

HABS  
CAL  
21-NOVA,  
IR-

HABS No. CA-2398-R

**Location:** Hamilton Army Air Field  
Novato, Marin County, California  
Bread Bakery  
Facility No. 413 (4th Street between Escolta Avenue and Hangar Avenue)

U.S.G.S.: Novato, CA. Quadrangle (7.5' series), 1954 (revised 1980)  
Petaluma Point, CA. Quadrangle (7.5' series), 1959 (revised 1980)  
UTM Coordinates: Zone 10; A: 542100/4213620; B: 544720/4212220;  
C: 542760/4210650; D: 541040/4212600

### Significance:

The base bakery was added in 1940, along with the base exchange and several other facilities that were not constructed initially due to lack of funds. It is one of the few buildings on base that retained its original function throughout World War II and afterwards. Building 413 is considered significant for its association with Air Force history in northern California, and with World War II actions in the Pacific Theater.

See narrative for Hamilton Field (HABS No. CA-2398) for a comprehensive Statement of Significance and individual report HABS No. CA-2398-A for a condensed Statement of Significance.

### Description:

The bakery is a one-story wood frame building with stuccoed walls and a low-pitched gabled roof with exposed rafters on the sides covered with composition shingles. It has a concrete wall foundation with a concrete slab floor. The bakery has a row (16) of double hung one-over-one light wood sash windows on either side and wood panel double and single doors. The primary entrance is accessed through double solid-core wood panel doors. A wood canopy supported by knee braces extends over the double door entry. Facility No. 414, an electric transformer vault, was incorporated into the east end of the building after 1952. It is connected by a small addition, designed as a refrigerated cold storage room. Another small addition is on the northwest end and houses a boiler unit and hot water heaters. Each addition measures about 12 feet by 9 feet.

The interior of the bakery is divided into two rooms. The main kitchen area has a 24-inch high wainscoting of six-inch-square red tile under plaster walls. The kitchen floor is

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covered with identical tile squares. The remainder of the building has a red concrete floor. Swinging doors on hinges separate the kitchen from the other room. A large stainless steel wash sink and a range hood are still intact in the kitchen. A single latrine is centrally located and contains one flush-valve toilet, a wall-mounted ceramic hand sink, and a cast iron mop sink. The ceiling in this building has deteriorated and collapsed and original lighting cannot be determined. The boiler room contains a gas-powered steam boiler unit.

**Historical Context:**

See narrative for Hamilton Field (HABS No. CA-2398) and Section B in report HABS No. CA-2398-F.

The bread bakery was one of the first buildings constructed in anticipation of World War II on base. It was finished in 1940, before the United States entered the war, at a total cost of \$7,824.38. The boiler room and cold storage additions were added in 1958 during a second period of expansion on base. The bakery remained in use until base closure in 1974 and is currently part of an excess property sale.

**Sources:**

See narrative for Hamilton Field (HABS No. CA-2398) and Section B in report HABS No. CA-2398-F.

The line drawn sketches were drafted on site in 1994 by Keith Syda, scanned into a computer and drawn by Christopher MacDonald in 1995, and corrected and finalized by Claire Warshaw in 1996 (all PAR Environmental Services, Inc. staff).

**Project Information:**

Hamilton Army Air Field is owned by various federal entities including the Department of the Navy, Department of the Army, United States Coast Guard, and General Services Administration (GSA). The Army/GSA parcels are being excessed and sold to private developers. The Navy property is included in Base Closure and Realignment actions.

As part of the Army's undertaking, it has been determined in consultation with the California Office of Historic Preservation (OHP) that the excess sale will have an affect on properties at the air field, and that these properties are components of a district that is eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. Based on consultation with the OHP and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, pursuant to 36 CFR part B00, regulations implementing Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (16 U.S.C. 470f), a

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Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) was entered into by the interested parties in March 1994. The agreement stipulated that prior to excess sale the Army must contact the HABS/HAER division at the Western Regional Office of the National Park Service, San Francisco, California, to determine the appropriate level and kind of recordation for the subject properties. The MOA further stipulated that copies of the documentation be made available to the OHP and appropriate local archives designated by the OHP. This recordation has been prepared in order to meet those stipulations.

Text prepared by: Mary L. Maniery/Judith Marvin

Title: Historian/Architectural Historian

Affiliation: PAR ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES, INC., Sacramento, California

Date prepared: July 1995

Photography prepared by: David De Vries

Affiliation: Mesa Technical, Berkeley, California

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